

From: Daniel Phillips
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In 1989, Microsoft apparently obtained a patent covering two principle components of a W3C recommendation, CSS and XSL. Microsoft was a member of the committee drafting the recommendation, and filed for the patent during the time the recommendation was being drafted:

<http://www.delphion.com/details?pn=US05860073> ___
(US5860073: Style sheets for publishing system)

There was some coverage of this sad affair at the time:

<http://www.zdnet.com/sp/stories/news/0,4538,2205109,00.html>

The question is, might Microsoft intend to use these patents in an attempt to erect new barriers in front of competitors with regard to the CSS and XSL standards? What is to prevent that? Considering the doubtful circumstances in which the patents were obtained, might it not be prudent to compel Microsoft to rescind these patents, or equivalently, release them into the public domain, in order to ensure that these patents are not misused.

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